

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please add the following new paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 1,  
immediately before “Field of the Invention”, as follows:

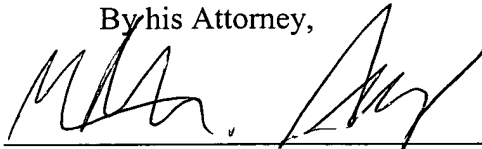
-- This is a continuation of copending Application Serial No. 09/677,119 filed on  
September 29, 2000, which in turn is a continuation of Application Serial No.  
09/366,192 filed on August 3, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,142,987.--

Respectfully submitted,

ROSS S. TSUGITA

By his Attorney,

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